

[0062] The coding region of the N-terminus of the activated vWF protease (aminoacids A-A-G-G-I-L-H-L-E-L-L-V-A-V-G, SEQ ID NO: 5) was found on Chromosome 9 clone RP11-224N20 bases 156653 to 156697. Thus the nucleotide sequence from base 150001 to 185911 was screened for potential exons. Consecutive overlapping genome-segments with various lengths (1500 bases-5000 bases) were analysed using search engines that were queried via the internet-explorer. The genomic sequence segments, its translations and the results of the search were managed using the 'Vectors NTI Suite1 v.5.2' computer-program (Informax Inc., USA).

[0065] Human salivary gland poly A+ RNA was purchased from Clontech. First strand cDNA was obtained using Expand reverse transcriptase (Roche) and oligo d(T) primer according to the manufacturer's instructions. PCR was performed using 5'CGGCGGGATCCTACACCTGG3' (SEQ ID NO: 13) and 5'AATGGTGA CTCCCAGGTCGA3' (SEQ ID NO: 14) as primers with 10 ng of salivary gland cDNA as template and 10 U of Hot Star Taq polymerase (Quiagen). The thermal cycling parameters were an initial incubation at 94° C for 15 minutes followed by 45 cycles of 94° C (50 sec), 50° C (50 sec), 72° C (2 min). PCR products were directly sequenced in both directions using the BigDye Terminator Cycle Sequencing Ready Reaction Kit (PerkinElmer Life Science).

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A composition exhibiting vWF protease activity comprising at least one single peptide chain having a molecular weight between 190 kD and 100 kD as determined by SDS-PAGE and comprising the amino acid sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO 1).

12. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1 wherein said peptide chain further comprises the amino acid sequence AVGPDV FQAHQEDTERYV
LTNLNIGAELLRDP SLGAQFRVHLVKMVILTEPEGAPNITANLTSSLLSVCGWSQTINPEDDTP
GHADLVLYITRFDLELPDGNRQVRGVTQLGGAC SPTW SCLITEDTGFDLGVTI (SEQ ID NO: 15) following the sequence AAGGILHLELLV (SEQ ID NO 1).